

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /077 W

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R 101503Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1039

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PGOV, SF, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: FURTHER ZAMBIAN REACTION TO LUSAKA TALKS

1. ZAMBIAN PRESS DEC 10 CONTINUES DEVOTE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO MERGER OF FOUR ZIMBABWEAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND TO LOCAL AND INTER-NATIONAL REACTION TO RHODESIAN REJECTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS. GOVT-OWNED DAIL MAIL FEATURED STATEMENT BY RHODESIAN OPPOSITION CENTER PARTY WARNING SMITH NOT TO TAKE PRECIPITATE ACTION AGAINST ANC DESPITE LATTER'S SEEMING NEW COMMITMENT TO ARMED STRUGGLE, AS WELL AS OPTIMISTIC FORECASTS BY SOUTH AFRICA COMMENTATORS THERE WILL BE EARLY RESUMPTION OF EFFORTS TO

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RESOLVE IMPASSE OVER CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS.

HARRY OPPENHEIMER STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S INTEREST IN DETENTE STEMS FROM GENUINE DESIRE FOR PEACE AND NOT FROM CURRENTLY LOW COPPER PRICES ALSO GOT FRONT-PAGE BILLING IN DAIL MAIL.

2. PRESS REPORTS THAT LEADERS OF FOUR ZIMBABWEAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ARE CONTINUING TO MEET IN LUSAKA TO THRASH OUT DETAILS OF THEIR MERGER AGREEMENT. TIMES OF ZAMBIA QUOTES UNNAMED OBSERVERS AS STATING FOUR LEADERS WERE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO RHODESIA THIS WEEK. (COMMENT: JAMES CHICKEREMA OF FROLIZI, ONE OF FOUR LEADERS WHO SIGNED DEC 8 MERGER AGREEMENT, HAS BEEN EXILE FROM RHODESIA FOR MANY YEARS. IF HE WERE TO RETURN WITH OTHERS IT WOULD PRESUMABLY BE ON BASIS OF ASSURANCES OF SAFE CONDUCT BY SMITH REGIME.)

3. BOTH ZAMBIAN PAPERS CARRY EDITORIALS ON LUSAKA TALKS. DAILY MAIL WARNS AFRICAN PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE TO STICK TOGETHER DURING COMING MONTHS IN FACE OF WHITE REACTIONARY OPPOSITION TO MAJORITY RULE AS WELL AS OF "BLACK OPPORTUNISTS" AND INFORMERS. INTERESTINGLY, DAIL MAIL REFERS TO RHODESIA AS "THE LAST BASTION" OF WHITE REACTION AND "THE ONLY COUNTRY" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WHERE WHITE LEADERSHIP IS SHORT ON REASONS FOR DISENGAGEMENT. SOUTH AFRICA IS SPARED MENTION IN THIS CONTEXT, PERHAPS BECAUSE ITS PROBLEMS VIEWED DIFFERENTLY FROM RHODESIA AS STATED IN LUSAKA MANIFESTO. TEND TO BELIEVE IT LIKELY OMISSION REFLECTS DESIRE AVOID OFFENDING SOUTH AFRICA AT THIS TIME AND IN A WAY ACKNOWLEDGE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO EFFORTS GET CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS STARTED AND POSITIVE CREDIT GIVEN ZAMBIA BY VORSTER FOR ITS OWN EFFORTS (CAPE TOWN 862). TIMES CONSIDERED LUSAKA TALKS TO REPRESENT BEGINNING, NOT END, OF DISCUSSIONS WITH RHODESIA AND OPINES THAT PRACTICAL STEPS CULMINATING IN LUSAKA TALKS HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLEARED MANY OBSTACLES PREVENTING BLACK AND WHITE LEADERS FROM TALKING TO EACH OTHER. TIMES CONCLUDES IT WOULD BE TRAGIC MISTAKE FOR SMITH WERE HE TO SEND HIS RHODESIAN "FELLOW LEADERS" NKOMO, SITHOLE, AND MUZOREWA INTO DETENTION UPON THEIR RETURN TO RHODESIA SINCE THAT WOULD DESTROY LAST HOPE FOR FURTHER TALKS.

4. SENSE OF CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM SUGGESTED BY
EMPHASIS ON LIBERATION MOVEMENTS MERGER AS
POSITIVE STEP TOWARD SETTLEMENT ALSO REFLECTED
IN PRESS AND ZAMBIAN RADIO REPORTS CITIZENS
HAVE CALLED IN TO NOMINATE PRESIDENT KAUNDA
FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FOR HIS EFFORTS ACHIEVE
NATIONAL UNITY AND PEACEFUL CHANGE IN MOZAMBIQUE,
ANGOLA, AND NOW RHODESIA.
WILKOWSKI

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